

Message Text

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16

ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 DRC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02

TRSE-00 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 /178 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5875

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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PASS STR FOR MALMGREN BY 0900 WASHINGTON TIME

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: EC

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INITIAL MEETING IN GENEVA,

OCTOBER 24

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5729

(B) STATE 202929

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1. SUMMARY. IN A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER TNC WORK PROGRAM THE EC ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE GENERALLY CONCURRED ON A PROGRAM FOR STATISTICAL AND ANALYTICAL WORK SIMILAR TO THAT BEING DONE BY THE CURRENT GATT COMMITTEES. THE COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES SEEMED FLEXIBLE ON WHETHER TO CONTINUE, OR TRANSFORM THESE COMMITTEES. THE PRINCIPAL POINT DIFFERING FROM THE PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR MALMGREN (REFTEL A) WAS FAIRLY GENERAL SENTIMENT FOR AN AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PERMREP SOURCES HERE THAT ON OCTOBER 12 A RESTRICTED MEETING OF THE EC 113 COMMITTEE HELD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON THE INITIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (TNC).

3. THE DISCUSSION CONSISTED MAINLY IN A PRESENTATION BY COMMISSION OFFICIAL THEODORUS HIJZEN. THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE DISCUSSION BY MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES, AND NO QUESTIONS WERE PUT TO A VOTE.

4. HIJZEN'S PRESENTATION WAS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: IT IS NECESSARY THAT WORK BE DONE UNDER THE TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS IN ORDER TO AVOID A HIATUS. HOWEVER, THIS WORK SHOULD NOT GET INTO THE HARD SUBJECTS OF NEGOTIATION UNTIL THE PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATORS HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR MANDATES. THE COMMUNITY SHOULD REMAIN FLEXIBLE IN ITS APPROACH TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE TNC SUBGROUPS, WHICH NEED NOT BE FIXED PERMANENTLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TNC WORK. THE CURRENT SITUATION CALLS FOR STATISTICAL AND ANALYTICAL WORK OF THE TYPE WHICH HAS BEEN TO SOME EXTENT CARRIED ON IN THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THESE COMMITTEES CAN BE USED BY THE TNC IN THEIR PRESENT FORM SINCE THEY WERE CREATED BY THE GATT COUNCIL AND THEY REPORT TO IT. THEY INCLUDE CONTRACTING PARTIES WHO WILL NOT BE ACTIVE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THEY ARE NOT OPEN TO NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES WHO MIGHT WISH TO NEGOTIATE. HOWEVER, THESE COMMITTEES, OR SOMETHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMERGING FROM THEM, COULD BE USEFUL IN PREPARING THE GROUND FOR THE HARD NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED ON THE MANDATES TO GIVE THEIR NEGOTIATORS.

5. HIJZEN CONTINUED: THE CURRENT CTIP MIGHT POSSIBLY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO UNITS: ONE CONNECTED WITH TARIFFS AND ONE WITH NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. THERE WOULD NEED TO

BE AN AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL ON ALL AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS AND WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INSURE THAT WORK IN THE OTHER COMMITTEES DID NOT INTRUDE INTO AGRICULTURAL SUBJECT. (HIJZEN HAS INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED TO THE MISSION THAT THE EC WILL SEEK AN AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.) HIJZEN MENTIONED TO THE GROUP THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEED FOR A COMMODITY GROUP (REFTEL A). THE EC NEED HAVE NO POSITION ON THIS POINT BUT SHOULD ASSURE THAT IF SUCH A GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED ITS CONCERN SHOULD BE WITH NON-AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SUCH AS LEAD. (ONE OF OUR SOURCES BELIEVED THAT THE GROUP AROUND THE TABLE WAS IN FAIRLY STRONG AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT. ANOTHER SOURCE SAID THAT IT WAS THE FRENCH DELEGATE WHO PUSHED HARDEST FOR A DEFINITIVE POSITION.)

6. HIJZEN ALSO SAID: TWO OTHER COMMITTEES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED--ONE FOR LDC PROBLEMS AND ONE FOR SAFEGUARDS. A DECISION ON THE NECESSITY FOR AN LDC GROUP COULD BE LEFT WITH THE LDCS. A SAFEGUARD COMMITTEE MIGHT BE REQUIRED, BUT ITS ESTABLISHMENT DOES NOT SEEM URGENT.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES THE GROUP SEEMED IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE THOUGH THIS MEETING DID NOT REACH FIRM DECISIONS SINCE CAPITALS HAVE NOT FOCUSED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THESE QUESTIONS. THE NATIONAL EXPERTS ALSO OFFERED NO OBJECTIONS TO HIJZEN'S TACTICS. THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE INFORMAL MEETING CALLED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL LONG, OCTOBER 18. HE WOULD LISTEN TO MR. LONG'S PROPOSALS AND SPEAK ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF EMPLOYING SOME FOR OF THE EXISTING COMMITTEES TO HELP WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TNC WORK. HE WOULD SAY THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS NO FIXED IDEAS ON WHETHER THIS WOULD MEAN BREAKING UP THESE COMMITTEES AND REFORMING THEM UNDER THE TNC, BUT THE EC WOULD OPPOSE INTRODUCING LARGE NEW SUBJECTS INTO THE WORK OF THE TNC AT THIS TIME. THE COMMUNITY WILL HOLD A CAUCUS AFTER THE OCTOBER 18 MEETING TO MAKE DECISIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE OCTOBER 18 DISCUSSION AND PRIOR TO THE FORMAL TNC MEETING ON OCTOBER 24. GREENWALD

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